

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SANTIA 06071 112243Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 166

S E C R E T SANTIAGO 6071

STADIS//////////

EXDIS

FOR ARA, D, P AND L ONLY

FROM THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, SHUM, CI
SUBJECT: LETELIER/MOFFITT ASSASSINATION CASE: FMS PIPELINE

REF: STATE 203382

1. I SUPPORT OPTION A AT THIS TIME. THE ADMINISTRATION HAS JUST SUCCESSFULLY OVERTURNED THE HARKIN AMENDMENT ON GROUNDS THAT IT WOULD HAVE CAST PREMATURE AND UNHELPFUL DOUBTS ON THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE CHILEAN JUDICIARY. I SEE NO REASON TO CHANGE OUR MINDS AND GO WITH OPTION C. OPTION B (TO SUSPEND ITEMS DIRECTLY RELATED TO INTERNAL SECURITY SUCH AS RIFLE AMMUNITION BUT PERMIT OTHER ITEMS TO MOVE) WILL, I BELIEVE, RAISE SERIOUS PROBLEMS OF DEFINITION AND RESULT IN A DEFACTOR OPTION C OUTCOME. THE RECENT BOMB FIN CASE IS A GOOD EXAMPLE. IN THIS REGARD WHILE RECOMMENDING OPTION A I HAVE NO OBJECTION TO KEEP THE BOMB FIN SHIPMENT SUSPENDED IF THAT IS PERCEIVED AS A PUBLIC RELATIONS PROBLEM. THE GOC IS GOING

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AHEAD WITH PLANS TO MANUFACTURE ITS OWN IN ANY EVENT.

2. MY PRIMARY REASON FOR RECOMMENDING OPTION A IS TO MAKE SURE THAT WE HAVE SOMETHING TO CUT OFF OR WITHHOLD IF AND WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH ON THE LETELIER EXTRADITION/TRIAL SITUATION AS I FULLY EXPECT IT WILL. TO MAXIMIZE OUR POTENTIAL LEVERAGE IF THIS OPTION IS APPROVED, I RECOMMEND THAT WE OPEN

THE SPIGOT IMMEDIATELY. WE UNDERSTAND MANY SMALL SHIPMENTS ARE
HELD AT PORTS AND APOS. IF WE THEN FIND OURSELVES IN THE POSI-
TION OF THREATENING TO HALT THE PIPELINE THE GOC WILL SEE
IT AS A MENAINGFUL RESPONSE. THE SECOND REASON I SUPPORT
OPTION A IS THAT IT WILL TEND TO STRENGTHEN OUR BASIC
POSITION THAT THE LETELIER/MOFFITT ASSASSINATION INVESTI-
GATION AND TRIAL IS A JUDICIAL MATTER -- SO LONG AS THE
GOC CONTINUES TO COOPERATE. OPTION B TO SOME EXTEND, AND
OPTION C EVEN MORE, INTRODUCE A POLITICAL DIMENSION WHICH
WOULD NOT BE HELPFUL AT THIS TIME.
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